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identification was, however, regarded by many as an indignity fit only for criminals, and the law has been repealed.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Archæological Museum of the University of Pennsylvania has received a gift of \$10,000 from Mr. B. N. Farren.

A FIRE occurred last week in the Boylston Chemical Laboratory of Harvard University. No serious damage was done to the building, but as the fire occurred in the storage room through self combustion of chemicals its cause should be carefully investigated in order that similar accidents may be avoided.

THE nineteenth session of the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute was opened on July 13th, with an attendance of nearly 800 teachers and other pupils.

AT a meeting of the executive committee of the board of trustees of Cornell University in Ithaca, on June 15th, the chair of the principles and practice of veterinary surgery, zootomy, obstetrics and jurisprudence in the New York State Veterinary College was filled by the election of Walter Williams, D. V. S., professor of veterinary science and physiology in the Montana College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and veterinarian to the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

DR. V. BUCHKA, professor of chemistry at the University of Halle, has resigned to take a position in the Imperial Patent Office. Dr. Karl Müller has been appointed professor of botany in the Technical High School, Berlin. Dr. J. v. Gerlach, professor of anatomy in the University of Erlangen, and Dr. Carl Claus, professor of zoology in the University of Vienna, have retired.

IT is stated that the total number of students on the books of the 21 Italian universities in 1895-96 is 21,161, showing a slight increase as compared with the previous year. Adding to these the students, male and female, of the institutes of higher education, a total of 23,962 is reached. Of these 6,736 are students of medicine. The most frequented university is that of Naples, which has 4,956 students, Turin coming next with 2,434; then come Rome with

1,911, Padua with 1,664, Bologna with 1,375, Pavia with 1,345, Palermo with 1,343, Genoa with 1,089, Pisa with 1,066, Catania with 890, and Messina with 551. All the others have fewer than 500, those of Urbino and Ferrara having fewer than 100.

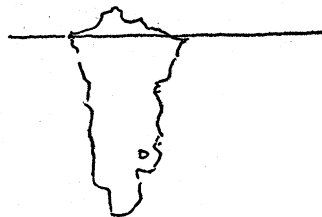
#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### AN INHERITED BLUNDER.

IT has been interesting to me for a number of years to notice how easily a blunder may be paraded and handed on from book to book in high honor, when a single careful thought would prove to any scientific person its absurdity.

The special case in mind is the conventional iceberg, as pictured in our school geographies and higher scientific texts. The first geography I ever saw had this physical monstrosity in it, and it is the common property of such texts up to date.

When we stop to think that an iceberg is merely a floating piece of ice, free to move in the mobile liquid water, we shall see at a glance that to be in stable equilibrium, the shortest dimension must be vertical. But notice the berg as shown in the conventional picture,



partly in diagram, as if seen through the water from the side. A berg as large as shown in some of these amusing cuts could not be kept in position by a whole fleet of great ships with grappling hooks and cables.

It is true that in some cases the artist has fitted blocks of stone into the ice near the bottom. But this has been done, very probably, to show the ice as an agent in transportation, and not in any case has he put ballast enough there to hold the berg down.

Here are some recent geography texts perpetuating this blunder. Appleton's Physical, p. 85, 1887; Butler's Physical, p. 79, 1887;